

In my opinion regulations restricting the concentratiuon of ownership of broadcast media should be streghened, not relaxed.

The experience of radio listeners in Sussex County, a more or less rural enclave in the northwest corner of New Jersey is an example of the negative impact of a large media company purchasing a local station.

WSUS, Franklin, New Jersey, prior to five years ago provided an abundance of local coverage. It was acknowledged as one of the hallmarks of Sussex County living. It featured commentary across the political spectrum by local personalities and coverage of significant local events. It was involved in the Sussex County Community with events like polical sign clean ups after elections, community breakfasts to encourage networking by local business people and substantial contributions to local events such as providing hosts and on air coverage of events like county fair contests. It was locally owned and genuinely part of the community.

About five years ago it was purchased by a Princeton based company and became a part of network. Although some attempts were made to keep the local flavor, they were more spin than substance and ultimately failed. It was apparent that whoever is running the show has no local roots. As a result, Sussex County no longer has a truly local station, reflecting local values and interests. In some degree the quality of life in Sussex County has diminished and I for one, am dissapointed.

I believe the FCC would be wise to take what actions are available to it to prevent such losses and to take steps to encourage local ownership of local broadcast stations.

Thank you for your consideration of my point of view.

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